KODAK

The Chicago Tribune.

VOL. 24. CHICAGO, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1871. NO. 205.

WASHINGTON.

Yesterday's Proceedings in Congress.

A One-Sided Debate in the Senate on the Enforcement Bill.

The Session Continued till 1 O'clock, a. m.

The Bill Passed by a Party Vote.

The Test Oath Repeal Bill Reported Favorably in the Senate.

Steamship Subsidy Bills Indefinitely Postponed.

The House at Work on the Omnibus Appropriation Bill.

The Removal of Attorney-General Akerman Again Hinted at.

Special Dispatch to The Chicago Tribune.

THE OMNIBUS APPROPRIATION BILL.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 24.—The House to-day made pretty good progress with the omnibus Civil Service Appropriation bill. There was but one really important amendment made, and but two interesting debates over a particular point of order which was raised and sustained, with reference to the item to pay Massachusetts the amount which Gen. Butler's Commissioners appointed to examine the subject, for cause deferred to them, claim is in excess of $1,500,000, and this item stipulates that it should be paid without interest and reserved to full for all claims on the United States for expenses incurred by that State under direction of the United States, found due by the Commissioners. Mr. Dawes said, in substance, that he had no objection to the item, but perhaps it would be reasonable for him to appeal from the decision of the Chair, which was accepted by Mr. Schenck. Mr. Sargent, however, appealed, but the Chair was sustained, and the House refused to suspend the rules. The first item in which there was much general interest, was that appropriating $5,000 to ex-Commissioner Wilson, of the Land Office, for a cabinet of minerals and geological specimens collected by him while in charge of that Department. Mr. Kelsey, of New York, made a somewhat effective speech in favor of the item, which he said was for purposes in the public interest of their education, then the statements must be registered in former, so he believed when confirmed by the record. Senator Sumner to the contrary, notwithstanding. Mr. Dawes said he had been three times elected to Congress, and had never failed to vote for all claims on the United States for expenses incurred by that State under direction of the United States, found due by the Commissioners. Mr. Dawes said, that the error was not to be discussed

The Chicago Tribune.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1871.

THE TERMS OF PEACE.

A Special from Versailles to the London *Standard* says that the terms of peace between the Emperor William and President Thiers contain a provision for payment by France of a war indemnity of 200,000,000 thalers, and the cession of Alsace and Lorraine, including the fortresses and cities of Metz and Nancy. It is added that the German army will not march through Paris on their way homeward. The Emperor William, it is said, will set out for Berlin on Monday.

There is a strong probability that these terms are correctly reported. They coincide with the outgivings of the Berlin press, and are in keeping with the well-defined policy of Count Bismarck, which is to fortify Germany against the return match which France may be expected to play with her at some future time. The belief that peace has been actually agreed upon has been entertained in commercial circles in England, and is substantially expressed in the advance in the Liverpool grain market.

The payment of 200,000,000 thalers is a small affair for so rich a country as France. The loss of her military province is, to be sure, a matter of greater pecuniary moment. But the loss of the two provinces, on the Rhine and the Moselle, embracing three of her principal cities, will be sure to bring on a renewal of the war as soon as the people feel that they are ready for it. The Germans say that the French will renew the war as soon as they think they can do so with success, whether Alsace and Lorraine be ceded or not. Those of them who have lived in those provinces as a measure necessary to self-defense. Undoubtedly, the French would recommence hostilities, without compunction or apology, for no better reason than to recover territory belonging to the first military power of Europe, if their present feelings could last ten or twenty years. Unfortunately, such feelings would last with sufficient intensity for all practical purposes if the former owners, or anything akin to it, were to dominate the country during the next ten or twenty years. But there would be room for the friends of humanity to hope that, with the overthrow of Napoleonism and the establishment of something like a republic, a new education might be given to the people, which might teach them that mere military glory is only impressive in the long run, and that their unprovoked raid against Germany was a crime of the highest type, which was justly punished by the overthrow of the French capital. There would be room for this hope, we say, if the terms of peace did not include the partial dismemberment of France. But, so long as the people of Alsace and Lorraine hold out their hands for help toward Paris, there will be no room for such hope. Another war will come in due time.

THE STATE REVENUE LAWS.

We have the extraordinary statement from Springfield that the Committee on Revenue of the two houses of the Legislature have reached the conclusion that the Railroad Aid law of 1869 is not only constitutional, but that the State is under plain obligations, legal and moral, to provide for paying out of the revenues the principal and interest of all the municipal bonds issued under that law.

The committees, therefore, propose to tax the people of Illinois to raise that money.

What is the ground upon which these committees propose to treat as the fundamental law of Illinois, superior to both the old and new constitutions? The act of 1869 provided that where any county, town, or district should subscribe stock to any railroad company which had proposed to build any railroad for State purposes, and that all those districts raised upon the taxable property in said localities, for State purposes, to the amount of the valuation of 1868, should be paid over, or held for the purpose of paying the interest and principal of said bonds thus subscribed. This law of 1869 rested upon two grounds: 1. That the State had power to authorize a portion of the people's capital locality to create a public debt for State purposes. 2. That the Legislature had power to levy a tax for State purposes and to exempt the property of the persons and corporations of particular localities from taxation for State purposes beyond a certain arbitrarily assumed valuation. The first of these assumptions is one which rests between the proposed committee and the holders of the bonds, and is one that, according to all precedent, will be determined by the courts when the people shall repudiate the debt.

The second of these questions is one in which the people of the State have a direct and immediate interest. It is an overthrow of every principle of justice and equality, and presents the policy of exemption and privilege in its most odious and iniquitous forms. The amount of these railroad aid debts is some $6,000,000, bearing an average rate of interest of 8 per cent. The constitution of 1848 says:

> "No money shall be drawn from the Treasury but in consequence of appropriations made by law."

"The court of the State shall not in any manner be grevious, in its use of, or taxation, in connection with any railroad."

"The General Assembly shall provide for levying a tax by State and county authorities, which shall be sufficient to pay the interest accruing each year on the State debt, and shall also provide for paying the principal thereof within twenty years from the time of contracting the same, except the debt created to repel invasion or suppress insurrection, which may be contracted to provide for the payment of the interest and principal of which the faith and credit of the State shall be pledged."

"The General Assembly shall not loan the credit of the State, or pledge the faith thereof directly or indirectly, in aid of any association, corporation or individual."

"The General Assembly shall not authorize any county, township, city, town, or other municipality to become subscriber to the capital stock of any railroad or private corporation, or make donation to or loan its credit in aid of such railroad or corporation, unless two-thirds of the voters of such county, township, city, town or other municipality, voting at an election to be held for that purpose, shall vote for the same."

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In the light of these constitutional provisions, all of which were in force when the law of 1869 was passed, the operations of this law itself will be interesting. It is proposed now that the taxation shall here-after be at a cash valuation instead of the one-fourth valuation of 1868. Under this new law, the total valuation in the State will be, in round numbers, $2,000,000,000. On this sum of one-fourth per cent per annum will be, in round numbers, $2,000,000. Of this sum of $2,000,000 the tax levy will be made after the following fashion.—See who Cook County as a representative, namely, of counties not owing railroad debts:

	Valuation.	Tax.
Cook County	$200,000,000	$2,000,000

Cook County, under this assessment, will pay into the State Treasury the sum of $200,000, being a tax of one mill on the dollar of the whole valuation. But how with the interest on the railroad aid debts?

Their case will stand thus:

	Valuation.	Interest.
Cook County	$200,000,000	$2,000,000

Cook County will pay into the State Treasury $200,000 only, the tax on the $200,000,000 of increased valuation being retained by them to pay the interest and principal on their railroad debts. This is the practical working of the law of 1869. If the bills which it takes $6,000,000 out of the pockets of the people, and turns it over to the railroad companies, are not repealed, there will be no reduction of the State tax. It will remain the same as it is now, and half the people of the State will be compelled to pay the taxes of the other half.

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| | Valuation. | Interest

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ADDRESS

Executor, care Attorney, 115 Dearborn-st., Room 3.

Notice is hereby given that Elizabeth R. Ayer of Cook County, Illinois, has made application to the Commissioners of Cook County, Illinois, for a deed to the following described property, to wit: Lot 1 in Block 10, Canal Trustees' Subdivision of Block in the Canal Trustees' Subdivision of the West Fractional Quarter of Section 29, North of Range 14 East of the Third Principal Meridian, in Cook County, Illinois, and that said deed will be issued thereon on the 1st day of March, A.D. 1871, unless objection be made thereto before that time.

Dated this 15th day of February, A.D. 1871.

ELIZABETH R. AYER.

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THE LAW COURTS.

Unconstitutionality of the Reform School Law.

Decision of the Illinois Supreme Court.

Liability of Railroad Companies who Don't Deliver Freight on Time.

Supreme Court.

THE REFORM SCHOOL LAW UNCONSTITUTIONAL.

Upon the announcement of the fact that in the cases pending, in the Supreme Court, brought to recover from imprisonment in the Chicago Reform School in favor of Daniel O'Connell, a lad of 14 years of age, THE TRIBUNE published the following opinion of the decision which has been rendered. The official copy of the opinion, given by Justice Thornton, has since been received. After stating the case: That this is a writ of habeas corpus, sued out by the father of the lad for the release of his son, who was committed by the Judge of the Criminal Court, as a proper subject for correction and reformation, to the Reform School. The petition alleges, in substance, that the said boy is restrained of his liberty by the boy who combines the offices of superintendent and warden of the institution, and that he is detained by force and violence, which the Court interpolated as follows:

"Which petitioner establishes by proof for the said, and that the said boy is not a proper subject for the said institution, and that he is not a child of said years, who by reason of his habits, associations, idleness, or evil practices, is liable to become a criminal, and that he is not a child who has no one to care for him, or who has not sufficient means or who properly to support him, or who is destitute of proper parental care, or whose parents or guardians are unfit by reason of their habitual drunkenness or criminal habits to have the care and custody of such child, and that he is not a child who has been convicted of any criminal offense, and that he is not a child who has been convicted of any criminal offense, and that he is not a child who has been convicted of any criminal offense

SHOOTING WORLD.

Fourth Day of the Billiard Tournament.

Excellent Shooting for the Double Bird Championship.

FOURTH DAY OF THE TOURNAMENT.

The attendance at the Northwestern tournament yesterday afternoon was only moderate in point of numbers, but the shooting was very good. Some and Lefevre, the same evening, were matched to Tom's evening, money play, which showed a handful of spectators, but they had to be deprived to play against Frank. All the shots on the ground were

[illegible]

The conditions of the match were about even very nearly upon by both parties. From the beginning it became him, however, that all the probabilities were in the first of the men, Dodd being rather off his usual form, while Frank was in the very best of trim. Both men were correctly grouped, defeat to an accomplished fact from the beginning of the match, but they were frequently applauded by the spectators for their fine shots. Dodd's shooting was very uneven, and, however, he settled down to do his best, he failed to kill 9 out of 10, closing on 11 out of 12 birds. Frank's shooting was very fine, and, however, he missed his first bird, he killed 12 out of 13, closing on 11 out of 12 birds. The following is the score:

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	Total
Frank	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	12
Dodd	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11

Frank killed 24 out of 25 birds, and Dodd 22 out of 25.

The second match was between Lefevre and Dodd, and resulted in favor of the former, who